

REMARKS

This supplemental reply is in response to the Final Office Action dated November 4, 2008, and the Advisory Action dated February 6, 2009, and is being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.33(a).

Claims 98-101 and 118-133 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Applicant has amended claims 98, 118, and 128 to more clearly recite aspects of the invention. Such amendment is not an admission of non-patentability. Applicant has simply narrowed the claims to reduce issues for appeal and/or to place the application in condition for allowance.

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 98, 99, 101, 118-121, and 124-133 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,363,442; hereafter "*Kennedy*") in view of Nilsson (U.S. Patent No. 4,763,504; hereafter "*Nilsson*"). Claim 100 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kennedy* in view of *Nilsson*. Claims 122 and 123 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kennedy* in view of *Nilsson*.

Applicant has amended claims 98, 118, and 128, obviating the rejection. Neither *Kennedy* nor *Nilsson*, alone or in any combination, teaches, shows, or suggests a means for sensing at least one of a straightness of the tube and a finished diameter of the tube, as required in every claim. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been addressed to the Examiner's satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,



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